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Dewan's reply.—The present practice in regard to the grant of puduval lands is this:—

(1) Where the rate of assessment for a puduval land has been already fixed by the Settlement department, such rate is almost invariably adopted, except when the rate is unduly low, in which case the Revenue department is competent to enhance the rate;

(2) Where no rate has been fixed for a puduval land by the Settlement department, it is competent to the Revenue department to assign one of the prevailing dry rates, which range from 1 to 15 fanams per acre. The Revenue department, in assigning a rate, will take into consideration the rates already fixed for adjoining lands. Government consider the present practice a reasonable one and are not prepared to make any changes. If in any particular case, it is found that there is hardship, it is open to the party aggrieved to bring it to the notice of the Peishkar.

9. *Commutation into money of Thiruppuvaram paid to Jenmis.*

Mr. K. Sankara Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) requested that Thiruppuvaram paid in kind by the ryots to the Jenmis might be commuted into money as in the case of the Sirkar tax. He proposed that three-fourths of the paddy tax might be allowed to be paid at 6 chuckrams per para and one-fourth at 11 chuckrams, or that the whole might be made payable at 11 chuckrams per para.

Mr. N. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) referred to the inability on the part of the tenants in some cases to pay the dues year by year and to the tendency on the part of the Jenmis to allow the dues to fall in arrears for about 12 years with the intention of obtaining a decree against the property or person of the tenant. The subject was brought forward last session and Government said that they were awaiting the replies of the Peishkars.

Dewan's reply.—Thiruppuvarams are paddy revenues assigned long ago by Government to certain Jenmis and institutions. If we now go and convert them into money, the Jenmis or institutions will claim compensation. That will mean expenditure to the Sirkar. We must first know what the probable expenditure will be, before we do anything. We are waiting for the reports of the Peishkars.

10. *Reduction of price of tax-receipt books.*

Mr. K. Narayana Panicker (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that the price fixed for tax-receipt books

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should be reduced or the ryots should be allowed to have the receipts entered in their own books.

Dewan's reply.—We are calling for information from the Peishkars as to the income derived from this particular source and when that information comes in, we shall consider if we can either reduce the charge or wholly do away with it. We recognise that Government must ordinarily undergo the expense of giving receipts to parties for monies paid by them.

11. Registry of porambokes in the names of owners of adjoining lands.

Mr. Subramonia Karayalan (Member, Shencottah Taluk) pointed out that, in measuring lands, when excesses over the ayacut areas were found, they were being treated as Sirkar *thanathu* and registered indiscriminately in the names of persons who applied for them to the detriment of the claims of adjoining landowners. This gave rise to disputes between those owners and the new comers and he therefore requested that preference should be given to the owners of adjoining lands.

Dewan's reply.—Ordinarily, a poramboke is a land, which should not be registered in any body's name. The practice now seems to be, when a poramboke is not required for a public purpose, to notify it in the Gazette and after that is done, the Revenue department disposes of it. This is a reasonable practice. I may, however, say that, when a poramboke is transferred from that head and made available for occupation, the claims of adjoining landowners must be favourably considered and Government will issue instructions accordingly.

12. Delay in issue of pattas for puduvals.

Mr. N. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Pattanapuram Taluk) represented the delay in the issue of pattas in regard to puduvals adjoining forest reserves even after the realization of the value of land and trees, on the ground that the pattas could be issued only with the concurrence of the Forest department, but that department were delaying disposal of the matter and subjecting the applicants to much suffering by their actions.

Dewan's reply.—If the member will write later on quoting specific instances of delay, we shall enquire.

13. Re-adjustment of the Vadakadama tax.

Mr. M. Narayana Kurup (Member, Vilavankod Taluk) said that originally the tax known as *Vadakadama* was levied at the rate of 5 fanams per kotta of 7 paras and 5 edangalies; but at the settlement the tax was raised to 11¼ fanams at the rate of 6 chuckrams per para. He requested that the tax might be fixed at the original amount.

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